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Q and A

## Activist Sees A Real Threat To Civil Liberties

Harry S. Ashmore is executive director of a civil liberties project called the William O. Douglas Inquiry into the State of Individual Freedom. The group is sponsoring a conference here Wednesday and Thursday to discuss whether Americans are losing their individual liberties to the government. Ashmore was interviewed by Staff Writer Robert Pear.

**Question:** What exactly is the William O. Douglas Inquiry into the State of Individual Freedom?

**Ashmore:** It's created as a testimonial to William O. Douglas, the creation of Robert Hutchins, who was the founder of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions and a longtime associate of Douglas. Hutchins' notion was that Douglas' voice on the Supreme Court would be missed, the point of view he represented in the critical area of individual freedom, and that there ought to be some way to keep that voice alive and that point of view represented. What we finally came up with was a board of review to monitor trends in the area of individual liberties and make periodic reports.



HARRY ASHMORE  
'Lip service to free speech'

**EXCERPT:**

**Q:** What about individual privacy?

**A:** Another panel will explore the intelligence function and the controversy about the CIA and the FBI, the role of the federal police and the local police and invading the rights of individuals, everything from wiretapping to surveillance. A panel including Stansfield Turner, (CIA director) will explore the intelligence function, its limits and whether they are adequate. Another concern is government largesse.